

Our ref: MAL/SKY
8th December 2020



ACADEMY
GREAT BARR

Dear Parents/Carers

We are living through remarkable times and as we draw towards the end of the term, I would like to thank our students and staff for their fantastic commitment, teamwork, and energy. Also I wish to thank the parents/carers and members of the community for the outstanding support provided to the Academy. Everyone has really pulled together and I know you will all be looking forward to having a well-deserved rest and spending valuable time with loved ones. I'm certainly looking forward to our Academy Christmas lunch on Wednesday to start the festivities!

In the absence of our traditional Christmas Pantomime this year, the Performing Arts department have been working with students to create a virtual Christmas concert. Further details of how to stream this will be available shortly through our website and social media.

This term we say farewell and wish good luck to Mr Turner and Miss Rollason who are leaving to develop their careers. We also say goodbye to Miss Humphries and Mr Burhani who covered maternity leave. We wish them all well.

As throughout the Autumn term, we will continue to manage any new, positive cases of Coronavirus within the Academy Community throughout the holiday. We would be grateful if you would continue to inform us of any positive test results from any of our students by emailing us [here](#) and providing these details:

- ✓ your child's name;
- ✓ the first date of symptoms;
- ✓ the date of the test;
- ✓ the date of the result;
- ✓ the test result reference number.

Parents/carers will be contacted directly for further information as required.

Please note that where students are awaiting the result of a Coronavirus test they must not attend the Academy and must inform our attendance team immediately upon receipt of the results.

Where students have been working from home, we thank them, and you, for the tremendous determination we have seen. Students can access work for their subjects through Google Classroom; full details and links can be found [here](#).

This year due to Coronavirus Restrictions, we have moved our Parent Consultation Evenings online. All meetings will be a virtual appointment of five minutes per subject to discuss your child's progress; further details will be sent out in the New Year. Provisional dates are as follows:

Year 7 – 22nd February 2021
Year 8 – 24th May 2021
Year 9 – 29th March 2021
Year 10 – 26th April 2021

Year 11 – 25th January 2021
Year 12 – 10th May 2021
Year 13 – 1st February 2021

Please ensure that you keep your child's contact details up to date by notifying us of any changes to address, telephone numbers, and/or email addresses. You can submit requests to update student data through the [Insight ParentPortal](#).

Chief Executive: Mr Andrew Martin BA (Hons), MA Ed | Head of School: Mr Mark Arnall BA (Hons), NPQH

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Your child's Personal Tutor is your first point of contact for all enquiries, and we would ask that you contact them by email. Please only contact the Academy by telephone if reporting your child's absence to the Academy, this must be done by telephone call from a legal guardian of the child, and cannot be reported by email (choose option 1 when calling us on 0121 358 6186).

As a polite reminder, parents/carers visiting the Academy will only be seen where they have a pre-booked appointment with a member of staff. Please do not enter the Academy site if you do not have an appointment or if you are feeling unwell; we will be unable to accommodate requests without notice.

The Academy will close for the Christmas holidays with a staggered departure between 2.05pm - 2.30pm on Friday 11th December and re-open to students on Tuesday 5th January 2021. Staff and students will be supporting Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 11th December with all proceeds going to Black Country Women's Aid. Please encourage your child to participate in this wonderful event and wear something festive alongside their Business Dress, donations will be accepted through ParentPay to support this worthy cause.

A reminder that our Twitter and Facebook pages are updated regularly with events, news stories, and information from the Academy, including action to take during adverse weather conditions. Do not forget all of our publications are available online. A list of key dates for your diary is provided below with all term dates published here.

- ✓ Christmas Jumper Day – Friday 11th December 2020
- ✓ Christmas Holidays – Monday 14th December 2020 – Monday 4th January 2021
- ✓ InSET Day – Monday 4th January 2021 (Academy closed to all students)
- ✓ Monday 11th January – 15th January 2021; Mock Exams for Year 12 and 13

Spring Term 2021

Monday 4th January 2021 – Thursday 1st April 2021

Monday 4th January is an InSET Day; the Academy is closed to students.

Half Term: Monday 15th February – Friday 19th February 2021

Easter Holidays: Friday 2nd April – Friday 16th April 2021

Summer Term 2021

Monday 19th April 2021 – Wednesday 28th July 2021

Friday 2nd July is an InSET Day; the Academy is closed to students.

May Day Bank Holiday: 3rd May 2021

Half Term: Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June 2021

Summer Holidays: Thursday 29th July – Wednesday 1st September 2021

Please be aware that on occasion, dates may need to alter slightly, and we will endeavour to notify you in good time should this happen.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Yours sincerely



Mr M Arnall
Head of School

Chief Executive: Dr Caroline J S Badyal, EdD, MA BE.d, DipEd, NPQH | Head of School: Mr Mark Arnall BA Hons, MA, NPQH

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